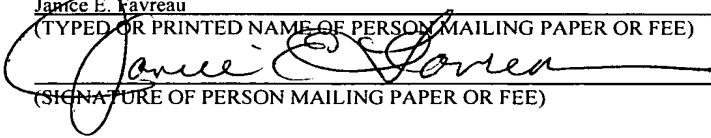


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:)
)
Takashi Ejiri)
)
Title: A LOCKING DEVICE OF AN)
AIR-OPERATED NORMALLY-CLOSED)
VALVE FOR A GAS CYLINDER)
)
Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
)
Filed On: Simultaneously herewith) (Our Docket No: 4415-21)

Hartford, Connecticut – December 2, 2003

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified
application as follows with reference to the U.S. Application as filed: